

MANY PLACES OF EXCEEDING INTEREST WERE VISITED.

The *Via Tornabuoni* runs out from the Piazza St. Trinita; it is so to speak the Wall street of Florence, for here are the offices of bankers and brokers and many merchants' stores. It is an imposing street and on its sides are historical and interesting palaces and churches. By the way, writing of bankers, it was here in this street that the banking was first known. Here the banks of old times bankers would congregate, and each banker had his banco or bench; when he failed to meet his obligations his bench was broken to pieces and the man himself was bankrupt (*banco-rotto*). The Italian method of book-keeping accounts, or our double-entry system, was first in vogue here, and I think the method of remitting money by means of bills of exchange originated from the Jewish bankers of Florence. One of the *Via Tornabuoni* houses the famous Strozzi Palace, which was built in 1490 by Filippo Strozzi, the principal opponent of the Medici. This is probably the most beautiful palace in Florence; it is the perfect development of Florentine architecture of the fifteenth century. Its length is one hundred and twenty-six feet and its height one hundred and five feet. The wonderful cornice of carved stone which overhangs a great distance is considered one of the masterpieces of sculpture in Italy. This palace has three fronts, and the singular corner lanterns, rings and iron ornaments are greatly admired. There is a deal of history crapped up in the stone walls of this magnificent palace. Not far away is the Palace Corsini, situated on the Arco, with a splendid picture gallery and grand staircase. The gallery contains many gems of the best masters. In this quarter of the Palace Corsini and the Palazzo Strozzi and many other houses one possessing a history peculiar to itself. Let us turn off to the left of the *Via Tornabuoni*, and pass through a few narrow streets we

be seen here, and that celebrated and wonderful sculptor was buried here in 1466. The sacristy is actually filled with tombs of the Medici. It is a lovely place, and it is so near to the noisy streets of the world that it is a treat to walk through this ancient, historic building and amid the countless objects of art to gaze upon the magnificent tombs of those who did so much for their native city, whose names have come down to us with bright halos which will brighten with glory as long as the history of Italy shall continue or be remembered. The cloisters connected with St. Lorenzo are very restful and inviting; strange to say they offer a home to many of the artists which are seen compeddy winnowed in the sunlight; these are fed here daily, according to a custom which has obtained here for centuries. A door opens into a passage which conducts us to the "Laurentian Library," which was founded nearly five hundred years ago by Cosimo de Medici. Here are ten thousand manuscripts of Greek and Latin classical authors; these manuscripts are of priceless value. Among these is a Virgil of the fifth century, a copy of Tacitus of the tenth century, one of which is a copy of a manuscript of 935 A. D. The Pandects of the sixth century are to be seen in this library. With an endless array of books which are worth more than their own weight in gold. The Pandects were digests and abridgements in fifty books of decisions and opinions of the old Roman jurists made in the sixth century by order of the Emperor Justinian, upon which the whole fabric of Roman law has been built. The grand staircase, which is the admiration of all who behold it, was designed by Michael Angelo; his name is a familiar name in Florence, and in my next letter we will pay visit to his home in the Via Ghibellina, where are treasured up many of

The Franciscan monastery near by commands a fine view of the surrounding country, and the valley of Florence as seen from this point is most lovely.

The Carrara mountains which loom up beyond the summit of Mount Albano form the setting of a fine panorama, and beyond these is the city of Carrara with a population of twelve thou-

"What is your reduction for clergymen on books?" "Twenty per cent," replied the storekeeper. "Are you a clergyman?" "Not yet, but I expect to be. I'm half through my course at the theological seminary." "Then you have ten per cent. Half clergymen, half reduction," said the storekeeper.—*Harper's Bazar.*

Station Elevated (LAPD-***** 11:52 11:52)

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